

Law Enforcement News

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Men & women of letters

No BS: Tulsa PD rookies to need four-year degrees

Beginning with the January class, recruits entering the Tulsa, Okla., Police Academy will have to have four-year college degrees, after the City Council unanimously endorsed a proposal by Police Chief Ron Palmer to increase the Police Department's college requirement from the current 108 credit hours.

The requirement, which was approved by the council on Sept. 11, makes Tulsa the only city in Oklahoma, and the largest in the nation, to require bachelor's degrees of its rookie police officers. The department's research on the issue found only about 15 police agencies nationwide with similar requirements, Palmer told Law Enforcement News.

The agency is used to being on the cutting edge of higher education for police, Palmer said, having required 108 credit hours for recruits since 1981.

"It wasn't a quantum leap for us but it's certainly something that's unusual for a city of our size, and it's unique among major cities," observed Palmer, who has a master's degree in industrial security.

Palmer, a former Portsmouth, Va., police chief who has headed the Tulsa Police Department since 1992, said he's a firm believer in the notion that college-educated officers are better grounded to meet the demands of the job, and are less likely to be the subjects of citizen complaints or engage in misconduct.

Officers with college degrees "come to you a

little bit more mature, they're a little more aware of diversity issues, and they're more prone to use their minds to problem-solve than one that doesn't have that type of background," said the Chief. "What I've seen here is that there's a world of difference between a high school graduate and a

"It wasn't a quantum leap for us but it's certainly something that's unusual for a city of our size, and it's unique among major cities."

college graduate in regard to the skill levels and the handling of people."

Palmer said that over the course of his 26 years in policing he has witnessed a sea change in law enforcement attitudes toward education, beginning in the 1970s, when the old Law Enforcement Education Program provided grants that allowed thousands of police officers to attend college.

"That's how everyone got their education,"

Palmer said of LEEP. "The value [of college] has always been stated, but it looks like people are acting on that value now. Some of my peers in the major cities are requiring two-year degrees. We've just gone a step beyond that."

Palmer revived a proposal drafted by former assistant chief Clinton Riggs in the 1970s, in which the late police official planned for a phase in of the four-year college requirement. "We were supposed to reach the B.A./B.S. requirement by 1981, however, there was a grievance filed at that time that set the proposal on the back burner, and nobody revived it until this year," Palmer said.

Currently, about 73 percent of the city's 794 officers have four-year college degrees. An additional 20 percent have 60 hours or more of college credit, Palmer said, and more than 40 sworn members have master's degrees or higher. The agency also boasts one member with a Ph.D., and three officials with law degrees. "We're a very well-educated department," the Chief noted.

At the same time, he pointed out, the requirement has not hampered the department's efforts to attract more minority recruits, as some thought might happen. "That doesn't appear to be the case," said Palmer. "We've hired [minorities] at the same level for the past two or three years, which was the result of a multicultural recruiting task force that partnered with the community. Coupled with this, we do a fairly strong recruiting effort not only in Tulsa, but outside the state, to get the numbers we feel will satisfy our goals."

Detroit PD hopes early warnings can short-circuit problem cops

The Detroit Police Department will join a small but growing number of big-city law enforcement agencies that rely on computerized early-warning detection systems to track complaints against officers and send up warning flags when an officer may need counseling, retraining or other in-house assistance.

The system, which will be overseen by the department's Risk Management Division, will allow officials to identify officers on the 4,200-member force who are at risk for misconduct or other problems. "We can give them the counseling and training they need so that they won't get into trouble, and so it won't cost [the city] any money," said division Cmdr. John Courie, a 28-year DPD veteran.

At the same time, officials announced that each member of the department will receive 18 hours of additional training by next year that will focus on issues that often prove troublesome for police, including false arrest, brutality and sensitivity.

Officials hope the training and the early-warning system, which is still in development, will help reduce the number of pay-outs by the city to settle lawsuits filed against police officers.

According to retiring City Councilman Mel Ravitz, who has tracked liability claims against the city and its Police Department for the past decade, Detroit has paid out more than \$91.8

million between 1986 and 1996 to settle lawsuits in which police were named as defendants.

Ravitz's staff analyzed 1,631 lawsuits and found that 106 officers were named as defendants in at least two cases, 71 were named in at least three cases and nine were named in at least five cases. Last year, the City Council approved almost \$11.4 million in settlement or judgment pay-outs — a 40-percent increase over 1995. The record year for pay-outs was 1990, when the city paid \$16.1 million.

The lawsuits reviewed by Ravitz's office were only for actions brought before the council for settlement, judgments or requests for representation for the officers. The totals do not include payments stemming from lawsuits involving police chases.

"Hopefully, we'll identify repeat offenders [among police officers] and give them counseling or training," Courie told Law Enforcement News. "But what's important to remember is that many of these lawsuits are from people who have filed lawsuits against the department previously. We don't worry about it right away with one lawsuit, but if there is a pattern [an officer] may need re-instruction."

The department is already analyzing some personnel data, but the goal is to integrate the analyses under the program, with data input from deputy

chiefs, internal affairs, department lawyers and others to compile "a super-profile of each officer."

The project will take a giant step forward with the delivery of computers over the next year that will be used in the effort. Courie said that the department expects the program to be fully implemented by mid-1998. The agency also will call in a consultant who will fashion the early-warning system to fit the agency's needs.

Courie stressed that the early-warning

system is only intended to provide supervisors with information about officers who may be in trouble, before their problems have serious ramifications for the department. "The key is to get the message out to everybody that the purpose of this is not for discipline so that people will not be reluctant to provide the appropriate information to the system."

"Training is what we're going to key in on," he added. "We want to provide training so we don't have to discipline."

Flush with success, 311 system due for expansion in Maryland

A successful one-year trial of the 311 non-emergency number in Baltimore will soon be expanded to other localities with the help of \$3.6 million in state funds, Maryland Lieut. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend announced last month.

Townsend said on Oct. 1 that the funds will allow other jurisdictions to utilize the 311 number, which Baltimore officials credit with a 25-percent plunge in unnecessary calls to the 911 emergency system. The funds will be available once legislators amend the regulations that govern financing of 911. That

process might take several months, but that hasn't dampened the enthusiasm of state emergency management officials for the program.

"We're looking into [311].... We want to implement it as soon as possible," said Jack Forsythe, Director of the Prince George's County Police, Fire and Rescue Communications Center, which handles over 800,000 calls to 911 each year.

In addition to Prince George's County, two other large suburban counties — Howard and Montgomery —

Continued on Page 10

Around the Nation

Northeast



CONNECTICUT — The state's police chiefs, backed by Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, have asked the Legislature to adopt specific guidelines on how communities are to be notified about sex offenders living in their midst under the Connecticut's Megan's Law. The law, which took effect Oct. 1, requires local police to make registries of sex offenders available.

Teaming up with Middletown's housing authority, the city's plainclothes Street Crime Unit has instituted a "zero tolerance" approach to loiterers and drug dealers in public housing that led to 60 arrests during September and October. The unit has amassed log books containing over 50 profiles of people warned by the housing authority about trespassing.

Acting in the wake of two recent deaths stemming from police chases, a task force including local and state police officials, lawyers, the head of the state NAACP and the chief state's attorney met for the first time Oct. 14 in an effort to come up with proposed legislation that would establish statewide policies governing high-speed pursuits.

DELAWARE — A task force report found that Wilmington police take about 15 minutes, or three times the national standard, to respond to emergency calls. The report urged that officers be reassigned from desk duty to street patrols.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — District Police Sgt. Thomas C. McCallrey, a 13-year veteran who worked most recently as a vice squad supervisor, was arrested Sept. 4 after he allegedly beat, bound and raped an acquaintance at her Anne Arundel County, Md., home.

Audrey Burno, 18, was sentenced to 25 years to life Det. 2 for shooting District Police Officer Gerald Anderson two years ago to steal his 9mm. Glock pistol. A note found in Burno's jail cell said: "I'm on a mission putting cops in a casket." Anderson, now 40, was in uniform and heading to his cruiser on Sept. 16, 1995, when he was ambushed and shot through the neck.

Residents of the Fort Davis neighborhood in Southeast Washington donated labor, electric signs, plants and food last month to help launch D.C.'s newest police precinct, located in a former bank building that was itself a donation. It took eight weeks to convert the building into a 6th District sub-

station, which will house 80 officers.

Less than two weeks after the suicide of District police officer Sang Shin on Sept. 23, Officer Delrico Durham killed himself with a gunshot to the head. A source familiar with the investigation said the 30-year-old Durham, like Shin, was apparently distraught over domestic problems.

MARYLAND — The state's prison system will be using a new, \$55,000 scanner to detect even minute traces of drugs on prison employees and visitors.

MASSACHUSETTS — In conjunction with Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, Gov. Paul Cellucci and Bell Atlantic Mobile announced a partnership that would create a private voice-mail system for 43 shelters and transitional homes for women.

NEW JERSEY — Hohoken police Lieut. Janet Aiello, who caused a sensation two years ago by switching genders, told city officials last month that she would retire on Dec. 1, six weeks after returning to duty from nearly a year of sick leave. It is unclear how Aiello's retirement will effect her discrimination lawsuit against the city, charging a campaign of harassment and retaliation against her following the 1995 decision to undergo a sex change.

A Jefferson police lieutenant allegedly threatened his chief, stopped a motorist while wearing only shorts and carrying two guns, and went AWOL to Mexico. The allegations against Donald Fletcher, a 23-year veteran, with a history of disputes with the department, emerged during a bail hearing last month in which he was charged with simple assault, making threats and criminal mischief, all stemming from a domestic dispute with his girlfriend. He is being held on \$50,000 bail.

The Newark City Council on Oct. 15 failed to approve a Police Department request to keep a military surplus armored personnel carrier it sought for use in cases of snipers and other stand-offs. Some council members felt the vehicle, which was given to the department by the U.S. Department of Defense, would have been a provocative display of police bravado.

NEW YORK — The number of bullets fired by New York City police in the past two years has decreased dramatically, from 1,728 in 345 incidents in 1995 to 1,292 shots in 318 incidents in 1996, and a projected 984 shots in 253 incidents this year. Police Commissioner Howard Safir credited the decrease to additional training, the use of non-lethal weapons and the greater trigger-pull resistance of the 9mm. Glock semiautomatic.

New York City Deputy Insp. Vincent DeManno was transferred in October from a high-profile command at the 77th Precinct to the No. 2 spot at the Brooklyn Housing bureau amid allegations that he fudged subway crime statistics when he headed the Transit Bureau's District 1.

New York City Police Commissioner Howard Safir may order a reenactment of a wild shootout in the Bronx in which 52 rounds were fired at unarmed drug suspects near an elementary school. The school was in the midst

of dismissing children on Oct. 15 when the incident occurred. Narcotics officer Daniel Lufferty was wounded, apparently by friendly fire, and both suspects were shot, one fatally, when seven officers opened fire.

Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau has said he will not seek the death penalty against Scott Schneiderman for allegedly killing New York City Police Officer Anthony Sanchez on May 19, as the officer responded to a report of a robbery at Schneiderman's father's penthouse.

A state Supreme Court judge ruled last month that police disciplinary files sought by New York City Public Advocate Mark Green must be turned over to him for review. Green has been seeking the records from 1995 and 1996, arguing that a review of the files was necessary because as many as one-half of all cases of police misconduct upheld by the Civilian Complaint Review Board fail to result in any disciplinary action against the officers involved.

Some 300 police officers have been redeployed to the New York City transit system in response to a sharp rise in grand larcenies in the subways.

New York City Police Officer Frank Titone, 37, was charged with possession of child pornography and larceny in October after getting caught in an undercover sting set up to nab him.

Guns and shields will be returned to four Brooklyn police officers who have been restricted to desk duty for the past three years after being accused of being part of the "Morgue Boys," a group of 73rd Precinct officers who stole cash from drug dealers. Frank Mistretta, Richard San Filippo, John Rooney and Frank Pinto pleaded guilty to Federal charges and agreed to cooperate with investigators.

Opening arguments were heard in October in the Federal case against officials of New York City's now-defunct Transit Patrolment's Benevolent Association, who are accused of racketeering, bribery, corruption and fraud. Prosecutors charge that attorneys and labor leaders used the union like "their own candy store," with the union's law firm taking hundreds of thousands of dollars in inflated fees to administer the TPBA's health and welfare benefit fund.

New York City police Lieut. Michael Walsh, an 18-year veteran, will be allowed to retire and collect his pension, instead of being fired as a judge had recommended for violating department rules against working for businesses engaged in criminal activities. Walsh secretly worked for a nightclub impresario who faces Federal racketeering, drug and fraud charges.

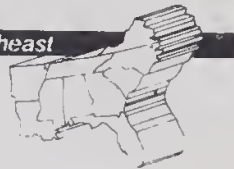
New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani signed an executive order in October that will require the Civilian Complaint Review Board to notify complainants about the progress of their cases.

PENNSYLVANIA — Richard Bernard Thomas, 51, who was a fugitive for 26 years in connection with the 1970 killing of Philadelphia Park Police Sgt. Frank Van Colln, was acquitted Nov. 3 of murder and all other major charges, after a jury deliberated for about 40 minutes. Authorities had said Thomas

was a member of a radical group that plotted to kill police. Van Colln was shot five times as he talked on the telephone in the Cobbs Creek Park guardhouse. He was unarmed, his gun in a file cabinet. The prosecution's case was said to have been hurt by the passage of time, which produced faded memories from witnesses and inconsistent testimony. Thomas's lawyer said his client was not at the guardhouse on the night of the killing.

The state Supreme Court ruled Oct. 10 that Milton Mulholland and Michael Albert, two white police officers from Pittsburgh suburbs, should be retried in the death of Jonny E. Gammage, 31, a black man who suffocated in a fight with police during a traffic stop in 1995. Their first trial on involuntary manslaughter charges ended in a mistrial. In April, a state judge ruled out a second trial, a decision that outraged black leaders and prompted prosecutors to appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Southeast



ALABAMA — A Birmingham police officer, once honored as officer of the year, was fired Oct. 13 after being convicted of arson for setting a fire at his ex-wife's home. Arthur Ellis is appealing the conviction, but not his dismissal.

Alabaster Police Officer Eddie Lovelady has been cleared by the U.S. Department of Justice of civil rights violations in connection with the alleged beating a woman during a traffic stop last year. Mary Alice Dowdell, 41, who is black, claimed that Lovelady, a white officer, caused her to need stitches in her head. Lovelady said Dowdell attacked him from behind while he was trying to arrest her son for disorderly conduct. While swinging his arm back, he accidentally hit her with his handcuffs.

Fired Uniontown Police Chief Franklin Edwards accused local leaders in October of "trying to create a dictatorship." Mayor James May said that Edwards did not notify him as to his work schedule or get his permission for a city jail inspection.

ARKANSAS — Three people were arrested Oct. 17 in Pine Bluff on charges of running a methamphetamine lab at the local Super 8 Motel. Police found a sawed-off shotgun, crystal meth and drug paraphernalia after a motel employee reported a strange smell coming from a room. A van belonging to one of the suspects had the components of a lab inside it.

FLORIDA — The Florida Supreme Court ruled 4-3 on Oct. 20 that the state's use of the electric chair is not cruel and unusual punishment. The ruling clears the way for the resumption of executions that have been on hold since March, when flames erupted from a condemned prisoner's head.

Metro-Dade Police Officer Trevin M. Johnson, 24, was ordered held without bail in October after he allegedly ripped off drugs and money from a pair of undercover officers. Johnson stopped the agents, who had agreed to buy co-

caine from a suspect and were following him in their car. He took a duffel bag containing about \$32,000 worth of cocaine and \$16,000 in cash, and told the officers to leave the area. It was unclear whether Johnson was working with the suspect. Johnson was followed to a nearby shopping center by investigators from the Metro-Dade Police Professional Compliance Bureau, where he was arrested.

GEORGIA — Gregory Paul Lawler, an Atlanta man who fatally shot one police officer and critically wounded another in October, is being investigated by the FBI as a suspect in the 1996 Centennial Olympic Park bombing. Officer John Richard Sowa, 28, was killed and his partner, Officer Patricia Coccione, was wounded as they approached Lawler's apartment in response to a domestic violence call. A Federal-state task force found manuals on bomb construction and an arsenal of firearms in the apartment.

LOUISIANA — Ex-New Orleans police officer David Singleton pleaded guilty Sept. 24 to delivering a suspected drug dealer, Richard Curtis, into the hands of a rival dealer, Richard Pena, in 1996 under the guise of a routine traffic stop. Curtis's skeletal remains were found in the Mississippi woods several months later. Singleton, according to Federal prosecutors, had been buying large quantities of cocaine from Pena, the alleged head of one of the city's most violent drug gangs. The ex-cop pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit assault with a deadly weapon and using that weapon to carry out the assault. Singleton faces up to eight years in prison, which he must serve after a seven-year hitch for drug trafficking, in a case that also involved his younger brother, Ronald, also a former officer.

MISSISSIPPI — The state Highway Patrol has stopped seizing driver's licenses from motorists arrested for drunken driving, following a state Supreme Court ruling that questioned whether licenses could be taken before a conviction.

NORTH CAROLINA — Durham County officials say a domestic violence court is curbing spouse abuse and saving lives. The same judge hears criminal and civil proceedings, often on the same day.

East Spencer police last month sent a robotic camera into a house in which two officers were shot while trying to serve a warrant. The camera bypassed the gunman, Movell Daniels, was dead. The incident began when East Spencer Officer Wallace Hough, 33, and Officer Robert Clement, 31, of the Spencer police force tried to serve a warrant on 37-year-old Marty Burke. Instead, Daniels, identified as Burke's brother, shot Clement under the arm, bypassing his bulletproof vest. Clement was listed in critical condition, Hough in fair condition. It is still unclear whether Daniels killed himself or was hit by the numerous shots fired by police.

VIRGINIA — Fairfax County banned guns, knives, and other weapons from county buildings starting Oct. 20, and will use portable metal detectors to enforce the ban. Five residents are suing over the policy, saying it violates state law.

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Midwest

ILLINOIS — The Centreville City Council voted Oct. 22 to reinstate Police Chief Curtis McCall. Police officers staged a three-day walkout to protest the chief's dismissal and press their demands for a bigger salary increase than that recommended by Mayor Riley L. Owens 3d. Owens vowed to veto the council's reinstatement.

Chicago police officers Matthew Thiel and James Comito Jr. were suspended on Oct. 21 by Supt. Matt Rodriguez who is seeking to have the two fired. The officers face departmental charges of beating Jeremiah Mearday, 18, and submitting false reports about the incident. The officers contend that Mearday fought them, and charges against the teen-ager for battery and resisting arrest still stand.

KENTUCKY — The state Supreme Court last month reinstated a \$2-million jury award against the Newtown Spirits Shoppe, a liquor store that sold alcohol to teen-agers who were later involved in a fatal car crash.

The 1997 homicide toll in Louisville reached 56 as of Oct. 2 when a man and a woman were found stabbed to death in the same apartment building where a 17-year-old was gunned down last November. Police said there was no connection between the latest murders and the 1996 killing, but noted that the events are indicative of the violence overtaking parts of the city. Police are investigating whether eight drive-by shootings could be gang-related and linked to the murder of Clinton "Meatball" Lewis, who was gunned down during a birthday party on Sept. 20.

OHIO — Peter Langan, the leader of the Aryan Republican Army, a white supremacist gang that robbed a string of banks to finance a planned overthrow of the Government, was convicted in Columbus Oct. 7 of four assault and weapons charges. Langan, 39, was convicted earlier this year on charges related to two bank robberies in Ohio and is under indictment in Philadelphia for conspiracy to commit six more.

A police investigation has determined that Cincinnati police had wanted to get a search warrant to pump the stomach of a man who died in police custody after swallowing cocaine. The death of Russell Rodgers on Aug. 1 sparked a rock-throwing melee and led officials to seek an internal investigation and FBI review of the incident. The report found that Rogers was asked by police if he had swallowed cocaine and if he wanted to go to the hospital. He refused. A search warrant, said the report, would have taken about four hours; Rogers began convulsing 37 minutes after being arrested.

Benjamin Brewton, 10, a Toledo boy who killed a 12-year-old friend on July 25 by plunging a metal fence spike into his head, was sentenced Oct. 17 to state custody. Brewton is in a foster home and could be moved to a juvenile detention facility when he is 12, to be held there until he is 21. The spike punctured the skull of Tereese Glover.

Plains States

IOWA — Fremont County Deputy Gil Androy, 38, died Oct. 14 of a head injury suffered while responding to a domestic violence call. Androy fell down a flight of steps and struck his head on the basement floor after he burst through the back door of Robert Shirley's home. He leaves an eight-months pregnant wife, Chris, and two sons from a previous marriage.

MINNESOTA — In the first year of a curfew at the Mall of America in Bloomington, only one juvenile was arrested. In the year before the curfew, nearly 400 teens age 17 or younger were charged with disorderly conduct and other misdemeanors.

MISSOURI — Firefighters responding to a call at a mobile home in Jefferson County on Oct. 10 summoned police after fumes turned out to be coming from a methamphetamine lab, not a fire.

MONTANA — Freeman leader LeRoy Schweitzer was sentenced Oct. 23 to 27 months in prison and ordered to pay back taxes and fines of more than \$312,000. Schweitzer's arrest last year touched off an 81-day standoff between the Freeman and the FBI.

Kalispell police Sgt. Gene Holliday, a 10-year veteran, was charged Oct. 15 with two felony counts of using forged prescriptions to get painkillers.

NEBRASKA — An Omaha woman, Vicki Wilkerson, has settled her lawsuit against the city for \$497,500. Wilkerson was injured in 1994 when her parked car was hit by another car being chased by police.

NORTH DAKOTA — Hazen Police Chief Kathy Berg, accused of submitting duplicate vouchers for \$327 in expenses to state police and the city between 1994 and 1996, was suspended without pay Oct. 8.

SOUTH DAKOTA — Fourteen billboards are going up statewide that warn drug dealers and users to avoid South Dakota. The signs, courtesy of the Highway Patrol, 14 businesses and the outdoor advertising industry, read: "Warning: If you bring drugs into South Dakota, plan to stay a long, long time!"



ARIZONA — Finding fault with "mismanagement, carelessness or incompetency," a Phoenix grand jury report has found that 13 dangerous, repeat juvenile offenders were released by the Department of Juvenile Corrections before their terms were finished.

COLORADO — Holly, a town of 900 residents near the Kansas state line, has been without a police force since September, when the town marshal and

deputy both resigned and a third deputy was fired for driving a patrol car half-way across the state without permission. Three candidates for the marshal's job have declined the post. In the interim, the Prowers County sheriff is providing an officer at night.

NEW MEXICO — The City of Santa Fe, its police chief and several officers were sued in October by the family of a woman killed by a stalker. The plaintiffs said police should have known that 48-year-old Jack Adams was becoming more aggressive before gunning down Gloria Zamora in 1996.

OKLAHOMA — An interactive video system is being considered by the state parole board as a way of cutting down on the security problems associated with having inmates travel to hearings.

Greg and Dona Diane Alleva pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Tulsa on Oct. 10 to charges of possessing an unregistered destructive device — a grenade — in a plea deal that will keep them out of prison. The Allevas' son, Robert, is accused in a series of attacks on abortion clinics. The couple admitted to knowing that he possessed a hand grenade.

White supremacist James Viehhaus Jr., 28, was sentenced to three years in prison on Oct. 17 in connection with a plan to bomb 15 cities. Viehhaus made the bomb threat in a message recorded for a white supremacist telephone line.

TEXAS — Despite the fallout from a 1996 videotape that shows out-of-state inmates at the Brazoria County jail being mistreated, the Texas Commission on Jail Standards said it will wait until January at the earliest before implementing a plan to deal with such allegations. The plan will include having states outline their use-of-force policy for state review and approval.

Dallas FBI officials are continuing their investigation of the death of a 24-year-old Waxahachie man while in police custody. Waxahachie officials said Ramiro Salgado Uriostegui hanged himself Aug. 9 from a doorknob in his concrete-walled detoxification cell. Citizens' groups had complained that police were withholding information.

A 39-year-old man sentenced to death for the murder of Garland Police Officer Michael David Moore at a bank on Feb. 15 shouted out curses at the jury, the victim's family and others in the audience during sentencing. Kenneth Mosely said all the Garland Police Department wanted was "another nigger to die." Moore is the second Garland officer ever to be killed in the line of duty. Officer Gerald Walker was shot to death in 1989.

Convicted serial killer Ricky Green added to the state's record death-penalty total for 1997 on Oct. 8 when he was put to death by lethal injection for a 1986 sexual mutilation slaying. Green, 36, who became the 31st person to be executed in the state this year, was tied to four slayings and at least eight other deaths.

A Federal magistrate in September released on bond three ex-lawmen accused of taking bribes to help marijuana smugglers, but not before warning the ex-cops not to threaten anyone involved

in the case. The warning was given after prosecutors unveiled a videotape in which one of the defendants, Donna police Sgt. Homero Cisneros Gallardo, discussed "past violence he's committed." Gallardo and six other men allegedly received more than \$20,000 in payoffs to help smuggle about 1,700 pounds of marijuana into South Texas. Charges were also brought against former Donna police chiefs Clemente Garza Jr. and Antonio Lopez, former police officers Modesto Gonzalez Jr. and Pedro Castillo, former Donna municipal control officer Valentin Gonzalez, and former La Villa police officer Raul Olivera Chapa. In several instances, said authorities, marked police vehicles were used to transport or provide protection for drug loads. Gallardo, Garza and Modesto Gonzalez were freed on \$50,000 unsecured bonds.

Thirty-six-year-old Kevin James Byrd was pardoned in October after DNA evidence cleared him of a rape for which he spent 12 years in prison.

UTAH — Freeway construction is causing an additional 10 to 15 accidents a month, according to mayors in four Salt Lake County communities, who want reimbursement from the state for police overtime.



CALIFORNIA — Ramona Ripston, the executive director of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California, has called on Los Angeles Police Chief Bernard C. Parks and Police Commission president Edith Perez to suspend the department's existing high-speed pursuit policy following the death of a Granada Hills woman whose car was broadsided by a van being chased by police. The two 19-year-olds driving the stolen vehicle ran a red light. The foundation last year released a report that found "alarmingly high rates of officer, suspect and bystander injuries" stemming from pursuits.

The first of five four-ton armored trucks with bulletproof windows was received in October by the U.S. Border Patrol in San Diego. The vehicle, provided by the Department of Defense and retrofitted for the agency's use, will be used to rescue agents facing gunfire, or getting pelted with rocks. From mid-May to late June, San Diego-based border agents were fired on seven times, with one agent wounded.

Los Angeles Deputy Police Chief Mark Kroecker, 53, announced his retirement Oct. 20 after 32 years with the department. He will take a job with the United Nations helping to train a 2,000-member international police force in Bosnia.

A former Los Angeles police officer who served 32 months in prison after a 1994 robbery conviction testified in October in a discrimination claim he filed against the department six years ago. Bobby Rydell Marshall, a 14-year veteran, said that LAPD officials had retaliated against him when he spoke out about racism in the department to lawyers investigating the Rodney King

case. His conviction for robbing a Laundromat check cashing store, he told jurors, was the result of a set-up by former colleagues. Deputy City Attorney Quentin Cole, however, suggested that some of Marshall's claims were fabricated, and that he was in fact promoted during the period he claims to have been blackballed.

Five men were indicted in Los Angeles Oct. 8 on charges of conspiring to murder a Secret Service agent who investigated a wire fraud case against Robert Kazarann, one of the defendants.

In what is considered the first lawsuit of its kind, The Ventura County Star has been subpoenaed for user information from its Internet Web site on the Diana Hoon murder trial. Hoon was convicted Sept. 28 of conspiracy, kidnapping and murder in the death of Sherri Dally, her lover's wife. Defense attorneys for Hoon's lover and alleged co-conspirator, Michael Dally, claim the Web site contaminated jury pools beyond the newspaper's circulation, making them unable to find unbiased jurors. Fifty-six news organizations have been asked to turn over unpublished reader, listener and viewer response to the case.

Orange County officials are said to be concerned about a possible new trend in drug experimentation, following the arrest of an Irvine teen-ager who police say was "cooking" up a batch of the drug methamphetamine from a recipe she got off the Internet. The 16-year-old girl said she received detailed, step-by-step instructions for making "cat," an illegal stimulant similar to methamphetamine. Narcotics officials said they were startled to find at least 25 Web sites devoted to the drug, including how to make it, enhance its high, and reduce the cost of certain ingredients. A gram can be sold for \$100, according to a supervisor with the state Bureau of Narcotics.

IDAHO — A Boise police officer who fatally shot a man whose car he jumped into and then could not disengage from as it sped down the street testified last month that he jumped into James "Justin" Atkinson's car to pull the emergency brake, believing his partner, Will Smith, to be hooked to the vehicle. Officer Christopher Rogers said at a preliminary hearing that he warned Atkinson twice to stop the car before shooting him. Atkinson's death on Aug. 31 was the fifth in 19 months attributed to the city police.

Former Pocatello police officer Douglas Quinn, 30, was sentenced to seven years in prison Oct. 6 for burglarizing businesses on his beat and stealing from the department.

WASHINGTON — King County Superior Court Judge Joan DuBucque last month imposed a sentence of 70 weeks in juvenile detention on a 12-year-old boy convicted of setting a sleeping man on fire. The judge said the sentence, which exceeded the standard 52- to 65-week range, was necessary because the boy had a criminal history and needed "serious intervention" while in detention. The boy and a 13-year-old friend were convicted of first-degree assault in September for setting 38-year-old Abdurizak Ahmed on fire. He was burned over 15 percent of his upper body and required skin grafts.

Last mission

Two leading figures in the field of law enforcement training were killed Sept. 17 in a helicopter crash in Bosnia, where they had gone to help that war-torn nation establish its police force.

The crash, which authorities said appeared to be accidental, killed **David Kriskovich**, the former FBI official credited with helping develop the special weapons and tactical team concept, and who also founded the Justice Department's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP).

Also killed in the crash, which occurred near the city of Bugojno, was Kriskovich's longtime friend and colleague **Livio (Al) Beccaccio**, 58, an instructor at the FBI National Academy who had trained thousands of local police officers in a program aimed at molding future law enforcement leaders.

Ten other people on the craft perished, most of them members of a United Nations delegation.

Kriskovich died doing one of the things he loved best — improving professionalism in law enforcement, said his daughter, **Elizabeth Kriskovich Tinsing**. "He really felt a calling to go," she told *The New York Times*. "He is a second-generation Croatian-American."

Kriskovich was with the FBI from 1970 to 1994, when he retired, and later

became founding director of the ICITAP program, which was designed to instill ethics and professionalism in the police forces in the Caribbean and the emerging democracies of Latin America through training and technical assistance.

In an interview with *Law Enforcement News* in 1994, Kriskovich said the program had been "a phenomenal success" and had been readily embraced by participants.

"We've given them a lot of training in public relations and we've done a lot of work in community-based policing. We've inculcated the idea that police are part of society and the society is wholly dependent on the police — and that they do have to work together," he said.

A firearms expert and Army veteran, Kriskovich served in Vietnam, where he exhibited the humanitarian side that served him well throughout his career. Dr. **John Witmer**, who served in Vietnam with him, said Kriskovich was just as committed to helping Vietnamese orphans as he was to training South Vietnamese commandos. Witmer recalled that Kriskovich placed over 300 children in one shelter alone.

"When we were there, Long Thanh Orphans Village went from none to 350 children," Witmer told *The Times*. "We would go there once a week after collecting soap, clothes and sheets from the PX in Long Binh. It was run by a Buddhist monk...and Kris helped design and build the place."

Kriskovich spent most of his FBI career at the National Academy in Quantico, Va., where he trained nearly

1,000 FBI agents and members of other Federal law enforcement agencies. It was there that he developed a personal and professional relationship with Beccaccio that continued until their deaths.

Beccaccio, who lived on a farm next-door to Kriskovich near Spotsylvania, Va., had retired from the FBI in 1995, but he wanted to participate in the U.N. mission, believing his expertise as a law enforcement trainer could be of value to the Bosnians.

"It wasn't about politics for him," said his son-in-law, **James Lupton**. "It was about helping people. He had a strong conviction that he could do something good."

Dog days

Det. Cpl. **Steve Seidler** of the Morris County, N.J., Sheriff's Department and his German shepherd partner, **Norman**, are close — a little too close, if you ask Seidler's insurance carrier, which has threatened to cancel his coverage if the dog does not move out of Seidler's home.

Sheriff's Department officials feel that living with Seidler and his family socializes Norman, and also helps the detective respond quickly to crime and emergency scenes. But State Farm Fire and Casualty Co., which covers Seidler's home for up to \$300,000, contends that the highly-trained dog is a liability.

"The insurance coverage is not acceptable to State Farm due to the increased liability exposure presented by the ownership of a K-9 police dog in the household," said a letter to Seidler from **Ralph Ayuso**, a State Farm underwriting supervisor. "Specifically, your dog has been trained for attack purposes. According to our underwriting guidelines, we are unable to provide homeowner coverage if a dog has been trained for attack and/or guard dog purposes."

Ayuso's letter prompted county officials to offer a unique alternative — providing total liability coverage for Norman. "This county certainly intends to do the right thing for our employees," said **Richard Allocca**, administrator of the county government's self-insurance fund.

Sgt. **Richard Wall**, who oversees the county's K-9 program, rose to Norman's defense. "Our dogs do not go and bite people," he told *The Newark Star-Ledger*.

Seidler also vouched for his five-year-old partner, pointing out that Norman has never bitten anyone, not even a criminal. On one occasion a few years ago, Seidler admitted, the dog did nip Sheriff **Edward Rochford**, but that incident came amid the stress of bright lights and news cameras at a public appearance.

Norman is one of six Sheriff's Department canines who live with their partners. "If we got called out from our homes and had to come down [to the county kennels] to get the dogs, it would take too much time," said Wall.

In an effort to work out an agree-

ment with State Farm, County Administrator **James Rosenberg** offered to provide liability coverage up to the \$300,000 limit of Seidler's policy. But State Farm rejected that option, demanding that the county provide unlimited coverage. An agreement was reached between the county and the insurer, because Seidler's policy was due to expire.

Rochford said his inquiries within the statewide law enforcement community found no other instance of an insurance provider demanding special liability coverage for a police dog.

Firing back

Criminals rarely use swords anymore, so Washington, D.C., artist **Esther Augsburger** decided to make a plowshare out of some 3,000 disabled firearms she received from the Metropolitan Police Department, to create a sculpture with a message.

Augsburger, who has given the artwork to the city as a gift, created it in response to her own experience with gun violence in her Capitol Hill neighborhood.

"I taught after-school art classes on Eighth Street Northeast and the kids were always talking about relatives who had been shot," she told *The Washington Post*. "Then one of my own students was killed, shot in the head."

Conceived three years ago by Augsburger and her son and based on the biblical passage, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares," the sculpture resembles a giant, curving wave with the guns embedded in the surface. **Fred Thomas**, who was then the D.C. police chief, agreed to give Augsburger guns that had been either seized by the department, or collected during gun turn-in drives.

But Augsburger, who dislikes guns, did not want any working firearms in her studio, so the department cut holes in the barrels or jammed the triggers. Out of some 6,000 guns delivered to the sculptor, she chose those that could withstand the four-point arc-welding used to affix each gun. On each side of the wave, Tech-9s and .38 caliber Smith & Wesson revolvers are visible. The other guns are painted black.

The sculpture now stands on city-owned land across from Metropolitan Police headquarters. A proposal to erect it in a Federal park was turned down in 1995 by both the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission.

The piece and its message have found some. A lawyer, **Timothy Dillon**, 79, asked if it was an ode to guns. But others, such as 25-year-old dishwasher **Mike Williams**, quickly picked up Augsburger's message.

"I think it's about peace," he said. "It's about turning guns in."

Heroes to their communities

Mass., Utah officers win first annual Shared Vision honors

Two police officers who have gone beyond the call of duty to forge close relationships in the communities in which they work — relationships that have had a positive effect on anti-crime efforts — were honored last month as the recipients of the first-ever Shared Vision Award, which is jointly sponsored by ITT Night Vision and the National Association of Town Watch.

Methuen, Mass., police Lieut. **Joseph Solomon**, 36, and Salt Lake City Police Officer **Fred Ross**, 29, were selected from nearly 200 entries, said **Matt Peskin**, executive director of the National Association of Town Watch, the Wynnewood, Pa.-based organization that coordinates the annual National Night Out event in which 6,500 member groups participate.

Ross and Solomon received their awards at a ceremony Oct. 27 in Orlando, Fla., during the annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Shared Vision differs from other policing honors because candidates are nominated by those with a consumer's-eye view of the their performance — community residents, who must submit an essay detailing why an officer deserves the award.

Both of this year's honorees took extra pains to make them-

selves known to the communities in which they work. Ross, who spent five years as a University of Utah police officer before joining the Salt Lake City Police Department in 1995, has become such a part of the Sugar House District in the southeast section of the city that the area is now known by some residents as "Fred Town."

Urged by his captain at the start of his assignment to become "a household name," Ross said he tried to do just that in his first few months on the job. "Ross got to know everyone — residents, city officials, kids, skateboarders and more than 400 merchants," said **Diane Stover**, the resident who nominated him. "The community was sick of crime and didn't want to take it any more, but they didn't know how to take action."

Ross brought the business community together to help fund a police bicycle patrol, raising nearly \$7,000 for a program that has since become hugely popular. Now, Ross oversees monthly meetings of local merchants, where they can discuss concerns and issues facing the district.

Crime is down in the Sugar House District by as much as 47 percent, but Ross said he's not willing to take the credit. "What's really made the program so successful is the flexibility given to me by the administration to try new and innovative ways to

reduce crime and the fear of crime in the area," he said. "Educating the officers through the concepts of community- or problem-oriented policing can have a substantial decrease in crime if officers are willing to put forth a little bit of effort to get to know their community and have that community get to know them."

Solomon, meanwhile, drafted an old-time symbol of community camaraderie — the local barber shop — in his efforts to turn around the fast-deteriorating Methuen-Arlington neighborhood. He set up a police substation that is open to anyone. As the barber clips hair nearby, Solomon might be seen conversing with residents or other officers in his district who use the facility to do paperwork. "He cuts hair; we do our police stuff," he told *LEN*.

Residents have a big hand in the substation's operation, volunteering to staff it three nights a week. In the summer, watch groups use the barber shop as a meeting place before going out on patrols. It has become a symbol of the neighborhood's transformation, Solomon said, since the nearby corner was previously a gathering place for gang members and drug dealers before they were chased away by cops.

Solomon, an 11-year veteran of the department, credits the neighborhood's turnaround to residents who decided not to cut and

run in the face of encroaching crime, and their willingness to be candid about the neighborhood's problems. "We took a different approach — going right to the residents who live there and asking them, 'What do you think the problems are? What can we do to help?' Traditionally, we'd tell them what we were going to do. But we took all of their reports, and we built our program around what they thought the problems were."

Conditions in Methuen-Arlington have changed so much for the better that "you can't believe the difference," he said. "Before [people] were afraid to walk outside — and honestly, some of the cops were afraid to walk down there. The level of fear has been dramatically diminished."

Linda Soucy, a longtime neighborhood resident whose efforts to rid Methuen-Arlington of prostitutes and their clients received national attention a few years ago, told *LEN* that Solomon has achieved success in an area that many police don't — winning and maintaining community support. Those who work with him "understand that when he puts his nose to the grindstone for an important issue that needs to be solved, they back him 100 percent. He takes everything personally, like it's his neighborhood — even though he doesn't live here."

Just around the bend:
The special "Year-in-Review" issue of Law Enforcement News is almost here. Don't miss this exciting double-issue retrospective, including LEN's salute to the 1997 Person(s) of the Year, in the Dec. 31 issue.

Less-than-lethal options are looking better

In the aftermath of two recent use-of-force incidents in Philadelphia and Baltimore, the police departments in those cities, like others across the nation, are actively considering less-than-lethal alternatives such as rubber bullets and shot-filled projectiles to stun and temporarily disable weapon-wielding suspects.

A community outcry erupted in August when Baltimore police shot and killed James Quarles, 28, who refused to drop a knife despite being repeatedly told to do so by four officers on the scene. As part of an investigation into the incident, police officials are questioning whether officers could have used the "beanbag," a shotgun-fired nylon bag filled with lead pellets, which the department purchased last year.

"We just bought that stuff and did all that training to have the less-than-lethal option available," said Baltimore

Police Commissioner Thomas C. Frazier. "So one of the questions will be, how long was the situation under way? Was the EVU [Emergency Vehicle Unit] called? If not, why not?"

The beanbag round has just been purchased by the Chicago Police Department as well. A change in Illinois state law that takes effect Jan. 1 will allow officers to fire the beanbags without having to meet a legal standard that allows the use of projectiles only when police or bystanders are in imminent danger.

The beanbag can travel at a speed of 320 feet per second and can knock a subject over, but will not pierce the skin.

"Getting struck with a 12-gauge beanbag round is equivalent to being hit with a fastball thrown by a major league pitcher," said Larry Glick, executive director of the National Tactical Officers Association in Doylestown,

Pa. "It's just an extension of the baton. It affords us the luxury of standoff.... So now policemen can take into custody those individuals armed with knives or machetes that otherwise, if they didn't have these [less lethal] weapons, they'd have to resort to deadly force, to shoot them," he said.

Two days before the Baltimore shooting, Philadelphia police officers successfully disarmed a knife-wielding man outside the Greyhound bus station. Five rubber projectiles struck him in the chest, stunning him so that officers were able to tackle him.

With both options come substantial drawbacks, however. Both rubber bullets and beanbags can cause injury, and neither is effective all the time, according to experts.

"Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't," Raymond Downs, coordinator of less-than-lethal technology stud-

ies for the National Institute of Justice, told The Baltimore Sun. "For some very large individuals, they seem to be able to be hit these things and not be terribly affected. If you get too close, you run the risk of more serious injury."

Rubber bullets and beanbag projectiles have also killed suspects. In Prince George's County, a 61-year-old woman with osteoporosis in 1992 died when a rubber projectile shot by sheriff's deputies broke three of her ribs, and a bone splinter punctured her heart.

In New Mexico and Ottawa, Canada, beanbags caused fatalities when fired at too close range.

A key issue confronting police using this technology is how quickly it can be delivered to a scene. Both the Philadelphia and Baltimore departments have provided the new devices — and appropriate training in their use — to elite units that deal with hostage

and barricade situations. In Philadelphia, police had 90 minutes of negotiation with the suspect, more than enough time to call in the Stake Out Unit.

Even so, noted Lieut. Gerald Fretz of the special squad, it can take up to 30 minutes for the unit to respond to a standoff with a violent suspect.

"We would never ask an officer to strike a knife out of a suspect's hand," he said. "So they're left with their Mace and a firearm."

Baltimore police spokesman Robert W. Weirich Jr. said devices such as a Taser, a snare net gun and a shotgun equipped with beanbag rounds are carried by the department's Emergency Vehicle Unit and are not immediately available to officers.

Officer Gary McElhinney, president of Baltimore's Fraternal Order of Police lodge, is one of those officers who remains skeptical about the use of less-than-lethal force.

"The rule of thumb is you meet deadly force with deadly force," he said. "Anything less on the part of a police officer would be foolish."

Criticisms notwithstanding, rubber bullets and beanbag rounds are but two components in a growing police arsenal of less-than-lethal weapons. Also available to police are a launcher that fires a net, sticky foam that entangles a suspect; an "auto-arrester" that can burn out the electrical system of a car; and vehicle-tagging, which shoots a projectile containing a radio transmitter that sticks to the car, enabling police to track it without engaging in a chase.

Gun buyers stopped by backgrounds

The roughly 2.6 million police background checks of would-be handgun buyers that were conducted last year pursuant to either the Brady Act or state laws prevented the sale of some 70,000 handguns — more than two-thirds of them to people convicted or charged with felonies, according to a report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

From 1994 through 1996 the Brady Act and similar state laws requiring background checks have blocked the sale of 250,000 firearms, including 173,000 handgun sales. The National Rifle Association, which favors instantaneous, point-of-purchase checks, has criticized the lack of prosecution of those who try to buy weapons illegally.

"Excusing 250,000 criminals from a prison term is hardly a reason for celebration," said Tom Wyld, an NRA spokesman. "We believe that the instant check remains the superior system in part because of instant check facilitates the instant apprehension of a prohibited person. The wait-based system prompts flight," he said.

More than 47,000 people, or 67.8 percent, were denied the right to purchase a gun last year because of felony convictions or charges, said the BJS report. An additional 13.4 percent were rejected because they were illegal aliens, juveniles, domestic abusers, dishonorably discharged from the military, or had renounced their U.S. citizenship. Six percent were fugitives from justice; 6.2 percent were prohibited under state or local law, and 3.9 percent were the subject of a restraining order.

Pa. moves closer to mandating more training, certification for 911 dispatchers

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency is one step closer to establishing minimum standards for the training of dispatchers and other 911 workers, after enabling legislation last month won preliminary approval.

The bill, H.B. 911, was approved by the House of Representatives in a 197-0 vote and sent on to the Senate, where it probably will not come up for a vote until after the holiday recess, according to John Comey, executive assistant to Pennsylvania Emergency Management director Charles Wynne.

"This is an area of great interest to local and state officials, so [the Senate] will be looking at this very carefully," Comey told Law Enforcement News shortly after the Oct. 28 vote.

The bill would give PEMA the authority to set new minimum training standards for 911 operators and dispatchers, who are currently required to undergo only 40 hours of training. The final bill also could give the agency the authority to require that 911 workers be certified by the state.

Legislators approved amendments that extend to wireless communications companies the same immunity that currently protects telephone companies against liability from misinformation conveyed during 911 calls. The bill also includes a provision to set up a statewide education campaign to school the public in the proper use of 911.

Counties will be permitted to use up to 70 percent of their \$1 telephone surcharge to cover dispatcher training — an increase from the 60 percent currently allowed. The bill would also authorize PEMA to develop a standard format for counties to use as they audit 911 expenditures, Comey added.

As currently written, the bill gives PEMA a wide advisory role in helping localities fine-tune their 911 systems, which have been under close public scrutiny since 1994, following the beating death of 16-year-old Philadelphia boy that was partially blamed on mishandling of calls by 911 workers.

Eddie Polec was fatally attacked by up to 20 bat-wielding youths in November 1994. Despite more than 30 calls to 911 in which residents pleaded for police assistance for the youth, it took operators — some of whom were rude

and impatient with callers — about 40 minutes to dispatch police. Police arrived five minutes after being notified, but it was too late to save the boy.

Following the incident, Philadelphia officials set out to revamp the city's 911 system, upgrading technology, implementing longer and more intensive training, and adding more operators and supervisors.

Polec's father, John, implored the Legislature to do whatever it takes to address problems with 911. "If 911 had worked about three years ago, I would never be here today. My wife and I would never know that 911 doesn't work," Polec said during emotional testimony at a hearing held by the House Emergency Preparedness Committee.

While 911 reform has been discussed for several years, PEMA spokesman Marko Bourne said the Polec case served as a "catalyst" for the current legislative action.

"This is an opportunity to make some good programmatic changes to improve the statewide system, to im-

prove the abilities of counties to provide the service and to address some of the technological issues, and try to come up with a plan for the future. It's a bill whose time has come," he said.

The House failed to approve an amendment that would have established data-base standards to make street abbreviations and codes uniform for dispatchers statewide — a proposal that supporters said would minimize the likelihood of sending emergency units to the wrong locations. Nor did the House approve a fee to cover the costs of implementing technology that would allow dispatchers to pinpoint the locations and numbers of cell phone users.

If the bill becomes law, PEMA would take about 18 months to develop standards, said Bourne. "We're not prepared to say how many minimum training hours will be required; that will be handled through the regulation process," he told LEN.

Some local agencies already have taken action to increase training for dispatchers, including the Delaware County Department of Emergency Ser-

FOP smells something fishy, so seafood chain cancels ad

Faced with a threatened boycott by hundreds of thousands of police officers, Long John Silver's, the nationwide chain of fast-food seafood restaurants, has pulled a TV commercial that portrayed a bumbling law enforcement officer taking a bag of fish sandwiches from a motorist he had pulled over.

The Lexington, Ky.-based company, which has 1,400 outlets in 37 states, announced Oct. 14 that it would pull the spots after receiving hundreds of letters and e-mails from officers nationwide who said they were offended by the portrayal.

The action came three weeks after officials of the National Fraternal Order of Police raised a stink about the ad, which debuted on Sept. 15. The FOP had urged its 270,000 members to the boycott Long John Silver's after the company refused the group's initial request to suspend the commercial

FOP president Gilbert Gallegos said he was "pleased" the company pulled "the Trouper ad," as it was dubbed. "Law enforcement officers have a tough enough job to do, without a restaurant contributing to anti-police sentiment just to sell fish," he said.

Bruce Hinton, a spokesman for Long John Silver's, told Law Enforcement News that the company was caught off guard by the degree of anger the commercial apparently fomented among law enforcement officers and their supporters.

"We never intended to create a television spot that was going to offend a segment of the population," he said. "We have the highest regard for law enforcement officials, of course. We very much like to have them in our restaurants."

Pointing out that police have been the subject of lampoons since the si-

lent-film days of the Keystone Kops, Hinton added, "I was surprised, quite frankly, to get this type of reaction."

Scott Blakely, a Lexington police officer who is president of the FOP's Blue Grass Lodge No. 4 as well as vice president of the state FOP, said the group was glad the ad was pulled. "We think it showed an effort on their part to do the right thing, but we would have liked to see them act responsibly from the beginning."

Hinton said the commercial appeared to be a hit with consumers, noting that same-day sales were up 9 percent compared to a year ago. "The general public has a sense of humor about it, and they understand we don't claim to portray an actual police officer. It's an actor. The commercial is not about law enforcement, it's about fast food," he said. "And of course, it's generated a tremendous amount of publicity."

DC Chief aims to clean up homicide unit

Prompted by a external review of the Metropolitan Police Department's frequently troubled homicide unit, Washington, D.C., Police Chief Larry Soulsby is cleaning house.

The Chief, citing mismanagement and multiple failures of following basic investigative procedure, has purged the unit's leadership, and is requiring all homicide personnel to sign a secrecy agreement that will prohibit the release of confidential information to the public, the media and other law enforcement agencies.

In addition, millions of dollars in overtime pay for the homicide division — one-third of the entire department's overtime outlay for the most recent fiscal year — is being scrutinized for possible fraud.

Low clearance

Capt. Alan Dreher, the homicide unit's commander, was transferred in September, as were 17 lieutenants and sergeants who worked under his supervision. Soulsby said the unit's dismal closure rate — well below the national average, according to FBI statistics — was pivotal in his decision to overhaul the division. But equally important was the unit's failure, discovered by a outside consulting firm, to follow departmental rules and regulations.

The firm of Booz-Allen & Hamilton Inc., which had been hired by the city's fiscal control board to review the department, found a host of problems, including:

¶ The failure of detectives to attend autopsies on the homicide victims

whose cases they were investigating;

¶ The misplacement of investigative material, including four years' worth of files that "could not be readily located," according to a report by the Justice Department's National Drug Intelligence Center;

¶ The failure to check evidence files and mobile crime reports;

¶ A failure by supervisors to assure that detectives were conducting proper interviews and staying in touch with witnesses.

The division's "solve rate" has dropped from 55 percent in 1994 to 43 percent in 1995, and 42 percent last year. So far, with the city's homicide total for 1997 at a relatively low 230 murders, the closure rate has only been 34 percent.

The national average is 65 percent, according to the FBI.

One police official, who asked not to be identified, told The Washington Post that 49 detectives, or about half of the unit's personnel, did not close a single case assigned to them during the first six months of 1997.

"We are all aware of where the closure rate was, and if they feel like we are not doing the job, they need to put people in there that can do the job," said Lieut. Alvin Brown. "We were hoping to elevate the closure rate to the point that it satisfied not only the people we answer to but also ourselves. I wish we'd had more time to accomplish that...But I don't think anyone has done anything to me. The closure rate is where it is. We were not getting the job done."

Ugly & Personal

But others say Soulsby deserves some of the blame for the situation. In 1994, the Chief transferred the unit's previous commander, Capt. William L. Hennessey, at a time when the division's innovations were winning kudos from the Justice Department. Hennessey's ouster revealed an ugly

personal feud between the two men.

"Homicide was doing very well under Hennessey, then Soulsby kicked him out and decided he was going to undo everything that Hennessey had done," one sergeant said. "Soulsby stopped that, and some of the other good things that were happening only because he and Hennessey had a personal

The cone of silence:
Homicide investigators must now get permission before discussing cases. Says an FOP official:
"How are we going to conduct an investigation with other officers if we know something but can't talk to them?"

problem. Now, we're being blamed for it."

Detectives also faulted the department's lack of support services and equipment, claiming they were forced to work under conditions that "other police departments couldn't imagine." The unit, he said, lacked clerical assistance, voice mail and, often, vehicles to take officers to crime scenes.

Top officials have also been blamed for filling the homicide unit with inexperienced personnel. Several veteran detectives said the unit's problems have been building over the years as more and more investigators with little training were transferred into the elite unit.

"The kids were courageous to take the job," said Det. Lorren Leadman, a union official and veteran of the homicide squad. "The abuse they're now

taking is uncalled for."

Union officials and detectives were also angered by Soulsby's new non-disclosure pledge which must be signed by each homicide detective in the presence of a witness, and applies to both open and closed homicide cases.

Loose Lips Sink Careers

The agreement, according to The Post, covers "the non-revelation of information as to content or the existence" of records, tape recordings and any other case-related documentation. It also prohibits investigators from discussing departmental policies and procedures, including homicide protocols and the existence of the pledge itself.

While the agreement states that it should not be viewed as a restriction or imposition on the working of homicide cases, it does require that departmental authorities be notified about any inquiries for confidential information.

Soulsby said it is to protect the confidentiality of cases, since too many investigative theories were being leaked. Channels are in place, including the Office of Public Information or unit commanders, to disseminate information to the media and the public, the Chief said.

The penalty for not signing the agreement ranges from removal from the unit to termination.

Detectives have argued that, as written, the pledge prevents them from discussing cases and sharing information with other police agencies and fellow District officers who could help solve cases.

Ron Robertson, who chairs the D.C. Fraternal Order of Police Labor Committee, asked: "How are we going to conduct an investigation with other police officers if we know something but can't talk to them? That's like withholding evidence. That doesn't make sense to me."

Robertson said he would write to Soulsby to object to the agreement

"I'm not asking any homicide detective to divulge to the public any information that would jeopardize any investigation," he said, "but it's ridiculous to not let officers talk to other police agencies."

Bagging the Big Bucks

In addition, city officials, faced with overtime expenditures for the homicide unit totaling \$6 million during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 — one-third of the department's total overtime tab for that period — are also looking into a possible scam by detectives who are collecting overtime pay for hours they did not work.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, The Post was able to obtain records showing that all 87 investigators collected overtime, mostly for court appearances.

One supervisor was paid nearly \$102,000 in overtime. Twelve others made more than \$100,000 in salary, including overtime, making them better paid than the Chief. Dozens of others, including sergeants and lieutenants, doubled or tripled their salaries, according to records.

"There appears to have been a coordinated effort on behalf of some of the detectives essentially to defraud the government," City Councilman Jack Evans told The Post.

Homicide investigators claim it is necessary for them to go to court for conferences and trials, but because only one shift coincides with court hours, detectives who do not work a day shift must attend court on their own time. They are supposed to fill out a form, which is then approved by a court liaison, who is a police official.

Soulsby has directed that homicide supervisors will no longer be able to collect court-related overtime. "That's one of the reasons we replaced all the supervisors," he said. "We need management and supervision and accountability in the homicide branch."

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Philadelphia PC under pressure to create a little NYC-style crime-reduction magic

A mayoral election in Philadelphia is still two years away, but the politics are already beginning to simmer. One of those who seems to be feeling the heat is Police Commissioner Richard Neal, who has come under attack for what critics say is the Police Department's failure to employ strategies that have helped to reduce crime in other U.S. cities.

In the latest development, city officials hired former New York Police Commissioner William Bratton to conduct a "limited review" of redeployment strategies and other police efforts.

Bratton is credited with developing and implementing anti-crime strategies that continue to generate across-the-board, double-digit crime declines in New York, and Philadelphia officials are hopeful that similar strategies will produce similar crime reductions in the City of Brotherly Love.

Kevin Feeley, a spokesman for Mayor Ed Rendell, confirmed that Bratton was reviewing some of the anti-crime plans devised by the Philadelphia PD in recent months. But, he told Law Enforcement News, "It is a limited review. He's not being hired as a full-time



Richard Neal
Feeling the heat

consultant to the Police Department. He's not being hired...as police commissioner."

Leaders of the city's black community, meanwhile, have rallied around Neal, saying voters would exact revenge at the polls should the popular Police Commissioner be forced out of office.

Last July, a bipartisan group of state legislators from Philadelphia called on the Mayor, a Republican, to adopt tech-

niques such as the Compstat strategy developed by the New York Police Department and now in use in Atlanta, Boston, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, New Orleans and other cities.

The statistics-driven program increases information-sharing between police officials and confers on precinct commanders greater responsibility and accountability for what goes on — good or bad — in their precincts. Compstat also utilizes computerized crime-mapping techniques as well as a zero-tolerance stance on so-called quality-of-life offenses. [See LEN, Dec. 31, 1996.]

The legislators, while conceding that crime had dipped slightly in Philadelphia, said the Police Department was adrift and that residents felt besieged by car thieves, burglars and other criminals. Among the most vocal critics in the group was state Representative Dwight Evans, a Democrat who has said he will run against Rendell in 1999.

Crime rates, while on the decline in Philadelphia over the past few years, have apparently not fallen sharply enough to suit some officials. During budget negotiations last spring, City Council president John F. Street ac-

cused Neal of not doing enough to fight drug dealers. Street, who is also seen as a contender in the next mayoral election, proposed putting together an auxiliary force of 1,000 retired officers to back up active-duty police. The idea faded, but Street has continued to criticize the commissioner, recently recounting his "disappointment" with Neal's performance in a recent interview with The Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Mayor, for his part, has proposed a 10-cent surcharge on state lottery tickets sold in the city to fund 600 to 750 additional officers. He also called for putting State Police in charge of patrolling city expressways, which would free up 50 city police officers, and restoring more than \$2 million in state aid for the homeless, whom he said commit an inordinate number of quality-of-life offenses.

The Mayor also drew some open-mouthed reaction, according to The Inquirer, when he reported that crime in Philadelphia had taken a huge plunge in the first six months of 1997 over the same period last year, falling by at least 17 percent. Overall crime in the city fell by 2.3 percent in 1996.

Tackling crime, by hooky or by crook

L.A. anti-truancy law credited for sharp dips in daytime crime, juvenile arrests

With another school year in full swing, Los Angeles police are learning once again that the practice of ticketing students who are caught out of school is no mere exercise in paper-shuffling or wrist-slapping. The latest statistical evaluation of the city's two-year-old truancy enforcement program credits the effort with producing a whopping 27-percent reduction in daytime crime as well as a 20-percent decline in juvenile arrests.

City Councilwoman Laura Chick, who introduced the loitering/truancy ordinance that took effect in October 1995, said the report "demonstrates there is a direct and proven link between chronic truancy and juvenile crime."

The statistics also prove that the ordinance has helped to increase attendance at Los Angeles public schools, she added.

"This ordinance is about community policing and establishing partnerships between our education system, police department, parents/guardians and the community-at-large to solve a major problem, which challenges our children's ability to graduate high school with the education they need," said Chick, who chairs the council's public safety committee.

The report, the second 180-day evaluation of the truancy ordinance, was released in June by the Los Angeles Police Department, and asserts that daytime rates of specific crimes have dropped precipitously since the enforcement effort began.

Burglary dropped by 24 percent, according to the report, which also listed decreases in thefts from cars (45 percent), grand theft (21 percent), petty theft (19 percent), shoplifting (32 percent), and vehicle theft (25 percent).

"When we get anywhere near a 9-percent or 10-percent decrease, we're elated," said Det. Ben Gonzalez, a 28-year veteran of the LAPD who coordinates the program out of the agency's Juvenile Division. "Twenty-seven percent is out of the question, so we're absolutely thrilled about that."

Gonzalez said police, school officials and city residents are all pleased by the law's apparent success in battling truancy — a problem that he said had resisted more traditional law enforcement approaches.

"Truancy enforcement through traditional methods has proven to be ineffective," he told Law Enforcement News. "Kids who are truant from school get involved in a lot of crimes, including drugs, graffiti, gangs, car theft, shoplifting and burglary."

An estimated 40 percent of all crime in Los Angeles is committed by juveniles, Gonzalez noted, adding that the percentage will soon decline if the anti-truancy effort continues successfully. Meanwhile, attendance rates in classrooms are up by 3 percent, he added.

"It's one of the best programs we've ever had," he said. "The schools are happy with it because the more kids who are in the classroom, the more funding they get. We liked it because the community got safer, and the community liked it because it got

*Enforcing a law that's about
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safer. Everyone's real happy with it."

Gonzalez, who has fielded inquiries from agencies all over the United States interested in replicating the program, instructs officers on how to enforce the ordinance, which he said was patterned after a successful effort launched in Monrovia, Calif., in 1994.

Under the program, officers issue traffic citations if students are found loitering off campus without an excuse between 8:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. Those issued summonses must appear before juvenile traffic court referees or judges, who were given the authority in 1990 to hear non-traffic cases involving juveniles, including loitering — the offense with which most Los Angeles truants are charged.

Truants must answer the tickets in the company of their parents. First-offenders can be fined up to \$135, with the fines

escalating to up to \$625 for repeat offenders. They can avoid paying the fine if they attend school for 60 consecutive days.

Those unable to pay fines may be assigned to 20 hours of community service. Once they finish the service, they receive a certificate of completion which they return to the referee, who usually drops the fine, Gonzalez explained.

Warrants are issued for those who fail to appear in court after a 10-day grace period, but the detective said that occurs in only about 10 percent of the cases. Of those who do show up, 90 percent admit to being truant from school, he added.

And, as if crime reduction and improved school attendance were not enough in the way of benefits, Gonzalez pointed out that the program also frees officers to answer calls for service during the day because they no longer have to spend hours transporting students back to school.

"The beauty of it is that officers are still able to handle emergency calls throughout the city as they come up, and we don't lose any patrol time — which is real valuable to a department that has to deal with a lot of gangs, a lot of crime and which doesn't have a lot of police officers," he said.

To prepare officers for enforcing the ordinance, the department produced a training video that was shown at all roll calls. "We had to sell it to police officers," Gonzalez noted, "since they're the ones who can make or break this thing, depending on whether they're sold on the concept."

In addition, students were informed at their schools, and parents were alerted through letters sent by school district officials. To leave no stone unturned, Gonzalez added, a public-service campaign was launched to ensure that everyone likely to be affected was aware of the ordinance.

Gonzalez said the department's figures serve to counter the fears of some early critics of the ordinance, who felt it would be disproportionately enforced against minorities. Of the approximately 10,000 tickets issued as of June, 61 percent went to Latinos, who make up 67 percent of the city's population. Whites, who make up 12 percent of the population, were issued 8 percent of the tickets.

Blacks, meanwhile, who make up 14 percent of the population, received 26 percent of the tickets, but Gonzalez explained the disparity by noting that predominantly black schools in South Central Los Angeles have truancy problems that have long dwarfed those affecting other city schools.

A bunch of Ore-goners?

County deputies may flee to Portland PD

The union representing sheriff's deputies in Multnomah County, Ore., is concerned that a new round of hiring by the Portland Police Bureau might prompt an exodus of as many as 15 deputies from the Sheriff's Department's already thinning ranks.

The Police Bureau announced recently that it intends to use an \$8.1-million grant from the Justice Department's Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services to add up to 60 officers, half of them through a lateral-entry program.

The bureau also recently instituted a four-year college-degree requirement, which makes Multnomah County deputies an attractive recruit pool since the Sheriff's Department has required a bachelor's degree for new hires since 1964 — the first law enforcement agency in the nation to do so, said Sgt. Karl Hutchison, president of the 97-member Multnomah County Deputy Sheriff's Association.

"They've structured their lateral-hire program to require a four-year degree requirement and current certification as an Oregon peace officer. We're the only agency in the tri-county area that really fits that description, so we're concerned about losing some of our younger members," Hutchison, a 26-year veteran, told Law Enforcement News.

As many as 15 deputies took and passed the Police Bureau's written entrance examination, clearing the way

for them to go on to the oral interview phase of the selection process, Hutchison said.

At \$30,000, the entry-level salary for sheriff's deputies is slightly higher than for beginning Portland police officers, but the Portland Police Association and the Police Bureau are considering raising entry-level pay to \$41,600, which is what officers with two years in the bureau currently receive.

Despite the union's fears, the deputies seeking to become Portland police officers will not get any special preference, said Lieut. Cliff Madison, a Police Bureau spokesman. "They may think they have a better shot, but they'll still have to take the test and they'll still have to compete with other applicants."

Madison said Portland is using most of its COPS grant to bring the 937-officer agency up to its authorized sworn strength of 1,026, but said the Police Bureau wasn't actively recruiting officers from other agencies.

Hutchison said some deputies might find the bureau a more attractive place to work because it offers a more urban environment. Over the past 20 years, he noted, the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Department has shrunk and become more rural as Portland grew through an aggressive annexation program. The last round of annexation a few years ago cost the Sheriff's Department 27 deputies, Hutchison added.

"Our patrols are almost rural now," he said Hutchison, noting that the

agency has two arms — enforcement and corrections. "I think some of the younger deputies wanted to do this when we working in more urban environments, so they may be a little disgruntled. Naturally, they'd be drawn toward working in the city."

During its peak in the mid-1970s, the Sheriff's Department had more than 250 deputies, a number that has since shrunk to less than 80, Hutchison said. Currently, the agency is short-handed by several deputies, and will need to hire more as veterans file for retirement and others leave for Portland, he added.

Butte cops have a new contract, but link to sheriff's pay scale is rejected

It took the threat of a strike, four months of negotiations and a grueling 12-hour mediation session, but Butte, Mont., police finally have a new contract, which will give them an average wage increase of 5.5 percent.

Sgt. George Skuletich, president of Local 2033 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said all 60 of the group's members agreed on Oct. 5 to accept the one-year pact. The Silver Bow County Council of Commissioners approved the agreement a week later.

In September, union members unanimously authorized their leaders to do whatever was necessary to jump-

start negotiations, including calling a strike. Skuletich told Law Enforcement News that city officials had made plans not to seek an injunction that would have forced striking officers back to work, as has been the case in the past.

"They thought they could run the department with a skeleton crew of about seven people — the Sheriff, captains and three rookies," he said.

LEN was unable to reach city officials for comment about the agreement.

The final package includes \$15,000 in wage increases that Sheriff John McPherson, who administers the police force under the consolidated city-county charter, agreed to reallocate

from the agency's Drug Awareness Resistance and Education budget.

The county rejected a union demand that pay for police officers, detectives and others be based on a percentage of the sheriff's salary, an arrangement that exists in every Montana county except Silver Bow. "If you belong to a sheriff's department, you're paid based on a percentage of the sheriff's salary," said Skuletich. "If you're a lieutenant, you'll receive 87 percent of what the sheriff's salary is. If the sheriff gets a 4-percent raise, you get the same raise."

That demand will again top the union's wish list when bargaining for a new contract begins next year, he said.

Murphy:

Friendly policing is the answer, whether fighting brutality or crime

By Patrick V. Murphy

Every patrol officer should be in community policing. Those who are not are strangers to the 93 percent of the residents who are law-abiding in even the most crime-infested blocks of a city.

Repeated dealings with the criminals, pushers, addicts, alcoholics, homeless, gang members, abusers and other police clients exposes non-community police officers only to the downside of their vocation. It becomes easy to stereotype an entire neighborhood as consisting of the criminal element. Intervening in family violence, responding to gun calls night after night, aiding gunshot victims and attending police funerals can foster a combat mentality. Perhaps it's no wonder that some politicians refer to it as the war on crime.

Some officers spend years in inner-city precincts with alarming rates of violent crime. Unlike infantrymen, however, they are not taken off the line periodically for R&R.

It should surprise no one that some burn out and others explode psychologically. The wonder is that so few among the 38,000 in New York and the 700,000 nationwide crack under the fear and unbearable stress of a constant diet of dealing with tragedy, suffering and victimization. Society expects the police to contain the results of its exploitation of the poor and powerless.

Former New York Police Commissioner Lee P. Brown implemented community policing by assigning 20 percent of the officers in each precinct to that function. This act deserves major

(Patrick V. Murphy, a former police commissioner of New York, is an incorporator of the American Police Association, a national professional society for officers with college degrees.)

credit for mobilizing the eyes, ears, information and influence of the people as partners with their neighborhood officers to prevent crime and disorder.

Unfortunately, those who remain in so-called "preventive" patrol (which does not prevent crime), responding to 911 calls without a responsibility for working closely with parents, students, teachers, neighbors, clergy and the other members of a community, are deprived of the opportunity to function as friends and protectors. They are underchallenged, underfulfilled and underempowered to do the job an officer should. Morale is weakened, and the productive partnership of a small neighborhood community with an officer who is primarily responsible for their protection is unformed.

As officers in a community-policing mode meet and make friends in their sectors, they respond to calls with more confidence and increased feelings of safety. A nod and a smile from someone in a crowd is reassuring and reduces tension.

New York's specialized model is the dominant method, although several cities have generalized community policing. New York has experimented with community policing since 1971, when the creative mind of Sgt. John Meere proposed a "cop of the block" organizational structure following a riot in the 81st Precinct in Brooklyn.

Dividing every patrol car sector in the city into sub-sectors, each of which would be the individual responsibility of a single officer, would optimize the effectiveness of a crime-prevention partnership, it was believed. An officer of their own for every 700 or fewer people, depending upon crime rate, would empower them to control their streets and protect one another. Responsibility for one's



own small turf would motivate officers to excel in crime analysis, activating the participation of the people and micro-managing an "urban village" to reduce crime.

The recent indictments of officers for sexually assaulting a prisoner in a station house are an aberration, not only for the NYPD but for the entire police service. Unlike the Rodney King case, no supervisor was directly involved. It occurred in a police facility, not on the street. The reported event is too extraordinary to be an indicator of the weaknesses, and strengths, of the department's management of the use of force.

Some proportion of cases in which officers must use force will always be controversial because it is so difficult to draw the line between what is "as much force as necessary" and what is excessive in the heat of combat, whether armed or unarmed. What occurred in the Brooklyn station house occurred after the subject was under control and the heat of combat past.

American police officers have an extremely difficult job because of permissive gun control and a weak social safety net compared to other advanced industrial democracies. Crime is caused by poverty and other socioeconomic injustices. As the wealthiest, most powerful nation, we should have a low crime rate, but our murder rate is three times that of Canada and France, six times that of England and 12 times that of Ireland. All Americans pay dearly for the counterproductive racist politics that refuse to support more programs to prevent crime while paying the inevitably enor-

mous costs of building and operating prisons.

Police officers protect us with courage and dedication. Every year more than 100 make the supreme sacrifice. Thousands are injured, many disabled for life.

In 1994, the murder rate in New York's 75th Precinct — an impoverished, mostly minority section of Brooklyn — was 90 times that of the 123rd, in a middle-class, overwhelmingly white part of Staten Island. The same racism that tolerated slavery and 100 years of segregation permits freedom and democracy to be smothered in parts of many cities where concentrated poverty and unemployment criminalize much of a generation of young African-American men. The same stupid bigotry that permitted 365 Irish Catholics to kill one another on one block at Five Corners in 1870 condemns the current underclass to similar, though

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Letters

Cops next door

To the editor:

In the Oct. 31, 1997, issue of LEN, page 7, a legislative aide for a Boston police association is quoted as saying (regarding police residency requirements):

"Well, if you have a toothache and a dentist lives next door, you don't go waking him up at 3 o'clock in the morning to ask him to pull your tooth."

How ironic and sad that such a comment would be made by someone who should have at least a rudimentary understanding of policing, and at a time when community policing and problem solving are sweeping the country. You see, there are still a number of us "dinosaurs" around who believe that policing stands for that very precept — that people can come to a police officer for help when they cannot go to anyone else.

Either this legislative aide has it all wrong, or we do. Hopefully no police officer, unionized or otherwise, agrees with his view. And, if that be the case, then the tail is wagging the dog to a much greater extent than one would ever have thought possible.

KEN PEAK

Professor, Department of Criminal Justice
University of Nevada
Reno, Nev.

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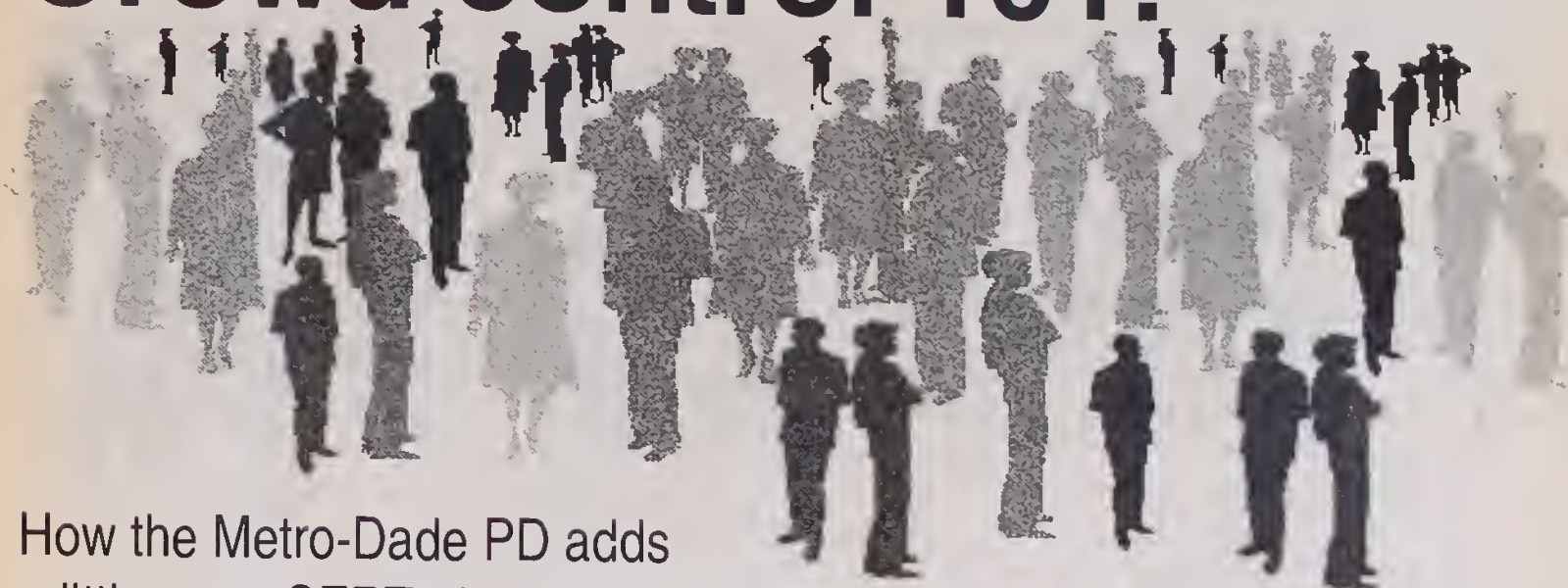
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Making HANDGUNS safer still....



Crowd control 101:



How the Metro-Dade PD adds a little more SERT-ainty to the handling of volatile mass gatherings, with the Special Events Response Team

By Dan Flynn

For responding to a wide range of incidents of chaos and group violence, the Metro-Dade Police Department has found that nothing succeeds quite like the Mobile Field Force technique. First developed in 1980 as a method of rapidly assembling groups of officers into tightly controlled operational units, the MFF has evolved into the department's standard tactical response to civil disorder.

The Mobile Field Force concept has become thoroughly institutionalized within the department. Metro-Dade officers receive interactive MFF training annually, and the refinement and application of the Mobile Field Force process has, in many respects, become a hallmark of the Metro-Dade police.

Yet even as the Mobile Field Force concept has achieved its niche as an effective method for quelling civil disorder, it tends to be a high-profile method and is not necessarily the most appropriate police response for managing all volatile large-scale events. Many rallies and demonstrations involve factors such as large crowds, emotional issues, threats or potentially volatile groups, which might seem to warrant the deployment of a Mobile Field Force. In such situations, however, particularly where there has not been actual violence, the mere appearance of large groups of officers equipped with riot helmets, gas masks and protective shields could be viewed as a police overreaction, and thereby insult or incite demonstrators — not to mention inordinately stimulate the news media.

Thus faced with a need to establish an effective alternative method for managing emotionally charged rallies, demonstrations and other gatherings, the Metro-Dade P.D. developed the Special Events Response Team (SERT) program. The program was configured in a problem-solving approach, based on the premise that the most successful way for the police to resolve a volatile group situation is through skillful event management focused on the human dynamics of the situation. SERT was designed as a system for managing volatile group gatherings by deploying supervisors who are proficient in critical-event management, along with officers specially trained in group dynamics.

Cross-training

The SERT program is administered by the Department's Special Events Unit, which normally manages police operations at sporting events, parades and large-scale celebrations. The main component of the program, however, is a cadre of cross-trained lieutenants, sergeants and officers whose primary work assignments are as patrol supervisors and officers. When a SERT operation occurs, the necessary numbers of them are activated and assigned as members of SERT teams consisting of one sergeant and seven officers each. The number of teams for an event depend upon the anticipated crowd size and threat level. Operational command of the teams is vested in a SERT lieutenant selected from a patrol district in the affected region of the county.

In order to become a SERT member, an officer or supervisor must first receive a departmental certification by successfully completing a regimen of training specially designed to develop advanced skills in group conflict resolution. With a heavy emphasis on human relations skills and defensive tactics, the training includes such topics as human diversity, group psychology and crowd dynamics. SERT supervisors receive further training in critical incident management.

A variety of factors are considered in determining whether a SERT operation is appropriate for an event, including: identifiable group leadership; available intelligence information; emotional intensity of causal issues; logistical issues; likelihood of escalation/intensification; history of the group or involved individuals; spontaneity of the gathering; community perception of the issues; conditions for resolution, and permit approval.

If, based on a combination of these factors, a determination is made by the affected departmental command staff or patrol district commander that the threat of disorder is moderate to high, and a SERT operation is appropriate, it can be implemented in one of two ways.

For spontaneous or relatively small-scale events, a patrol district commander can initiate a SERT operation certified personnel from his or her district. More typically, SERT operations may be implemented for larger, planned events requiring police resources that exceed those available in the affected district's normal on-duty SERT compliment. The latter may occur directly at the behest of the department's command staff, or upon the request of the affected district's commander. When this occurs, the Special Events Unit assumes the responsibility for coordinating the SERT operation.

The Special Events Unit is staffed with the department's most experienced event managers. When they are assigned to coordinate a SERT operation, they serve in an advisory capacity to a SERT lieutenant, selected from the affected region of the county, who commands the operation. The Special Events Unit staff assists the SERT lieutenant in conducting a site assessment and opening dialogue with the event sponsors, as well as procuring the necessary logistical support and intelligence data. In addition, they assist in arranging for operational resources such as police legal advisers, mounted patrol, motorcycle and media-relations units, and in developing an operations plan. If, however, the event involves more than one patrol district or occurs within a municipal jurisdiction, the SERT operation then becomes the responsibility of the Special Events Unit's chain of command.

Track record of results

SERT operations tend to be most effective in handling planned demonstrations and events, and exceptionally so in dealing with events in which there are opposing groups and counter-demonstrations. With a fundamental objective of protecting the civil rights and liberties of all concerned groups and individuals, SERT personnel apply event-management tactics that have proven effective in creating and maintaining an atmosphere of order and control, including:

- ❑ Establishing acceptable First Amendment demonstration areas;
- ❑ Designating buffer zones between opposing groups,
- ❑ Establishing radio and hand signals to direct groups of officers;
- ❑ Pre-designating inner and outer perimeters;
- ❑ Establishing staging areas for specialized support units, news media and emergency medical services.

A particularly beneficial feature of the SERT concept, as emphasized in operation planning protocols, is the careful consideration and effective, practical application of support resources, such as mounted units, bomb-detection canines, aviation units and others. Likewise, depending upon the potential

for violence, SERT commanders may either arrange to have a Mobile Field Force organized and ready to assemble if the event escalates, or actually have a Mobile Field Force assembled and staged out of sight in the general vicinity of the event. Thus, if the event does escalate out of control despite the best efforts of the SERT operation, there is an orderly transition into an MFF operation.

Following up

As with any adept operational process, following each SERT event there is an in-depth objective critique. The critique is reduced to an after-action report that must be completed and submitted within five working days, and the areas of concern are addressed in the next SERT training cycle. In addition, personnel who have performed in an exemplary manner are appropriately recognized or commended.

As an example of the way a SERT operation works, consider a recent planned rally outside of a government complex within a Dade County municipality. The event's sponsors anticipated a crowd of approximately 2,000 who would be demonstrating over several emotionally charged political issues. Complicating matters were death threats that were reported against the primary demonstration organizer, as well as a series of bomb threats around the demonstration site in the days preceding the rally.

Under the purview of the Special Events Unit, five SERT teams were activated. Three were initially deployed — two for crowd control and one to control the ingress and egress points of a large nearby government administration building. The two remaining teams were held in reserve and kept out of sight in a nearby parking garage. A Mobile Field Force was on standby as well, with its officers and supervisors remaining on patrol in nearby police districts. If they were needed, a written plan indicated where they were to assemble as well as their MFF positions and chain of command.

Despite some minor harangues from the crowd, the three initial SERT teams managed the event successfully while municipal police officers handled traffic control in the area. It proved unnecessary to assemble the MFF or deploy other police resources that had been held in reserve. Following the demonstration, the department received unlikely accolades for handling the event in a low-key, low-stress manner.

The Special Events Response Team has provided an efficient and effective means for the Metro-Dade Police Department to control large, volatile gatherings. It is designed to respect the rights of groups to demonstrate while using a minimal show of force, to manage conflict in a low-key manner, and to prevent the escalation of tense situations. More importantly, it facilitates solid detailed planning by experienced personnel, and brings well trained, properly oriented officers to bear on potentially critical incidents.

(Major Dan Flynn is a 24-year veteran of the Metro-Dade, Fla., Police Department, where he is currently commanding officer of the Special Patrol Bureau, which includes the aviation, marine patrol, SWAT, bomb disposal, K-9, motorcycle, special events, underwater recovery and critical incident management units. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration and is a graduate of both FBI National Academy and the Senior Management Institute for Police.)

Friendly policing is the answer

Continued from Page 8

less severe degradation.

Under Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's "hands-on" oversight and strong leadership of the Police Department, murder in the 75th Precinct declined by 50 percent from 1994 to 1995. The same smarter policing has saved hundreds of lives of young black men as the crack traffic has "matured" (brought under control by new mobs who appreciate that violence is bad for business). A better economy with more jobs and the incarceration of large numbers of violent criminals have contributed to police success.

There can be no denying that strict accountability of field commanders for reducing crime as more officers and other resources became available to them has also notably improved performance.

The Los Angeles Times has surveyed several of the largest cities that have experienced significant declines in murder. Unanimously, they attribute the improvement to community policing.

The NYPD, like every department, continues to have much room for improvement. Our fragmented, insular, uncoordinated non-system of more than

Unlike his crime warrior and drug warrior predecessors, Clinton preferred to lead the way for friendly peace officers to assist the people in exercising social control — the appropriate role for the police in every democratic society.

15,000 local departments functions at a great disadvantage. Neither the states nor the Federal Government provide anything close to the kind of support structure required to achieve reasonable effectiveness. The absence of adequate coordination alone permits thousands of violent predators and con artists to avoid justice for years, even decades, by simply crossing jurisdictional boundaries. Foreign police administrators refer to our crazy-quilt non-system as a joke. Presidents and governors never tire of referring to crime as a local problem while ignoring the essential need for state standards, planning, research, exchange of knowledge and personnel as well as national innovation and leadership. Mayors, especially in major cities, with their inordinate shares of disadvantaged residents, are left too much to their own devices.

The United States Conference of Mayors, with funding from the Department of Justice, currently sponsors a

peer-exchange program for mayors and chiefs to learn best practices and transfer them to improve operations, personnel administration, discipline and control of the awesome, broadly discretionary powers of every officer. If the best practices among the 10 cities over a million population could expeditiously be transferred to all of them, the current rate of decline in serious crime would accelerate.

New York Police Commissioner Howard Safir brings the broader experience of a distinguished Federal law enforcement career to lead his talented command staff. He is a disciplinarian who does not hesitate to dismiss for misconduct. The long history of civilian complaint review boards demonstrates their insignificance compared to a police administrator with high professional standards. Such boards are beneficial, however, for indicating citizen participation in the complaint process.

President Clinton realized in 1992 that the police establishment (thousands

of small-town chiefs who far outnumber those in the largest cities) had not supported Congress's 10-year initiative for systemization through the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. He took a different route, Federal subsidization of the hiring of 100,000 additional officers for community policing. Unlike his crime warrior and drug warrior predecessors, Clinton preferred to lead the way for friendly peace officers to assist the people in exercising social control. It is the appropriate role for the police in every democratic society.

His powerful legacy will be that of the President who reduced crime, empowered the poor to fully participate while saving the great cities from the extreme manifestations of their most destructive problem. He understands that the police are the "germ of democracy (Reith) whose vocation is principally "service to the poor" (Bittner).

Friendly cops relating to every "urban village" will minimize brutality as well as crime.

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Law Enforcement News

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Based on Baltimore success, Maryland eyes statewide 311 system

Continued from Page 1

would probably be the next jurisdictions to implement 311 systems once funding is available, said Charles Porcari, a spokesman for the Lieutenant Governor.

"The results have been wildly successful, so we can assume others will be extremely interested in duplicating it in their own jurisdictions," Porcari told Law Enforcement News. He said the costs of retooling emergency communications systems to include 311 capabilities would probably be covered under the 70-cent surcharge on telephone bills designated for 911 systems.

"Funding isn't an issue," Porcari said. "This isn't anything that requires dramatic amounts of new infrastructure or personnel for that matter."

Interest in 311 has soared since Baltimore officials released a report on the first year of a two-year experiment. Among its findings:

¶ Overall calls to 911 dropped by 25 percent.

¶ Uncompleted calls to 911, including those intercepted by messages urging the caller to stay on the line and those interrupted by busy signals — fell by nearly 70 percent.

¶ The time it took operators to answer 911 calls was cut by two-thirds.

¶ The number of calls requiring a police response declined by 6 percent — the first decrease since 1990.

¶ The number of callers to 911 who were put on hold fell by 82 percent.

¶ A survey of Baltimore residents found that 98 percent approved of the 311 system, while approval rates on 911 service climbed from 77 percent to 94 percent.

¶ Through the first three quarters of this year, the 311 number had received 595,062 calls, while 854,507 calls had

been made to 911.

"The results here have exceeded my expectations. The importance to the rest of the country is that this was a community willing to use a new strategy to solve an old problem," said Joseph E. Brann, Director of the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

The COPS office provided \$350,000 to fund the Baltimore project, contending that an alternative to 911 would free police officers to devote more time to community policing efforts. AT&T covered costs associated with upgrading the Baltimore dispatch center, which allowed for non-emergency calls to 911 to be automatically transferred to 311.

More than 100 other U.S. jurisdictions, including Chicago and Philadelphia, are said to be eager to try 311. A Baltimore Police Department spokesman, Robert Weinhold, told LEN that he has fielded scores of calls from around the nation — indeed, from all over the world — from officials wanting to know more about the system.

Baltimore officers also have been eager to comment on the system, and feedback from them has been positive, Weinhold said.

"They're able to handle the non-emergencies with discretionary time they have and they don't have to handle calls that can be deferred to other city agencies," he noted. "They can be more proactive while achieving our community policing goals and strategies."

The pilot project is also being viewed as a test of a proposal by President Clinton in July 1996 to set up toll-free, non-emergency numbers nationwide to ease the burden of the 90 percent of all calls to 911 that are estimated to be unnecessary or non-emergency.

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

1-2. OCAT Instructor/Use of Force-Surviving a Legal Encounter. Presented by the National Criminal Justice Training Council. Chantilly, Va. \$295.

1-2. Exceptional Service in Policing (ESP). Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$275.

1-3. Street Survival '97. Presented by Calibre Press. Las Vegas. \$189.

1-5. Investigative Photography 1. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$600.

2-4. Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) National Gang Conference: What's New, What's Works. Las Vegas. \$175.

3-4. Supervising the Problem Employee. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$275.

4-5. Breakthrough Strategies to Teach & Counsel Troubled Youth. Presented by Youth Change. Dallas. \$125.

4-5. Tracing Illegal Proceeds. Presented by the Investigation Training Institute. Phoenix.

\$395.

8-9. OCAT Instructor/Use of Force-Surviving a Legal Encounter. Presented by the National Criminal Justice Training Council. West Palm Beach, Fla. \$295.

8-9. Criminal Justice Grant Writing. Presented by Justice Planning & Management Associates. Indianapolis. \$275.

8-12. Crime Analysis Applications Training. Presented by the Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. New Orleans. \$450.

8-12. Advanced Forensic Art. Presented by the Metro-Dade Police Department. Miami, Fla. \$549.

8-12. Bloodstain Evidence 2. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$650.

8-12. Investigative Photography 2. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$650.

8-12. Law Enforcement Fitness Instructor Certification. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$550.

8-19. 1997 Use-of-Force Instructor Training Symposium. Presented by the National Criminal Justice Training Council. West Palm Beach, Fla.

11-12. Criminal Justice Grant Writing. Presented by Justice Planning & Management Associates. Cleveland, Ohio. \$275.

11-12. Executive/VIP Protection. Presented by the Executive Protection Institute. Baltimore, Md.

15-19. Defense Without Damage — Instructor Training. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$550.

15-21. Law Enforcement Ethics: Train the Trainer. Presented by the Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute. Dallas. \$395/\$495.

It's a Date:

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For further information:

Addresses & phone/fax numbers for organizations listed in calendar of events.

Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training, P.O. Box 8, Montclair, CA 91763. (909) 989-4366.

Calibre Press, 666 Dundee Rd., Suite 1607, Northbrook, IL 60062-2727. (800) 323-0037. Fax: (708) 498-6869. E-mail: Seminar@CalibrePress.com.

Executive Protection Institute, Arcadia Manor, Rte. 2, Box 3645, Berryville, VA 22611. (540) 955-1128.

Investigation Training Institute, P.O. Box

669, Shelburne, VT 05482. (802) 985-9123.

Justice Planning & Management Associates, P.O. Box 5260, Augusta, ME 04332. (207) 582-3269.

Metro-Dade Police Department, Training Bureau, 9601 NW 58th St., Building 100, Miami, FL 33178-1619. (305) 715-5022.

National Criminal Justice Training Council, P.O. Box 1003, Twin Lakes, WI 53181-1003. (414) 279-5735. Fax: (414) 279-5758. E-mail: NCJTC@aol.com.

Northwestern University Traffic Institute, 555 Clark St., P.O. Box 1409, Evanston, IL 60204. (800) 323-4011.

RISS National Gang Conference, Attn.: Ms. Trelles D'Alemerte, (904) 385-0600, ext. 227. E-mail: tdalembe@ur.com.

Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute, P.O. Box 830707, Richardson, TX 75083-0707. (214) 883-2376. Fax: (214) 883-2458.

Youth Change, 275 N. 3rd St., Woodburn, OR 97071. 1-800-545-5736. Internet: www.youthchg.com.



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Fun With Numbers:

4: You'll soon need that many years of college (plus a degree) to join the Tulsa P.D. (Page 1.)

311: The non-emergency number, hailed as a success in Baltimore, will be expanded in Maryland. (Page 1.)

911: Pennsylvania may require certification and more training for dispatchers. (Page 5.)

Plus:

Crowd control 101: Learning from the experience of the Metro-Dade P.D. (Page 9.)

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"What I've seen here is that there's a world of difference between a high school graduate and a college graduate in regard to the skill levels and the handling of people."

— Tulsa, Okla., Police Chief Ron Palmer, speaking of the Police Department's newly approved requirement that all police recruits have a four-year college degree. (Story, Page 1.)